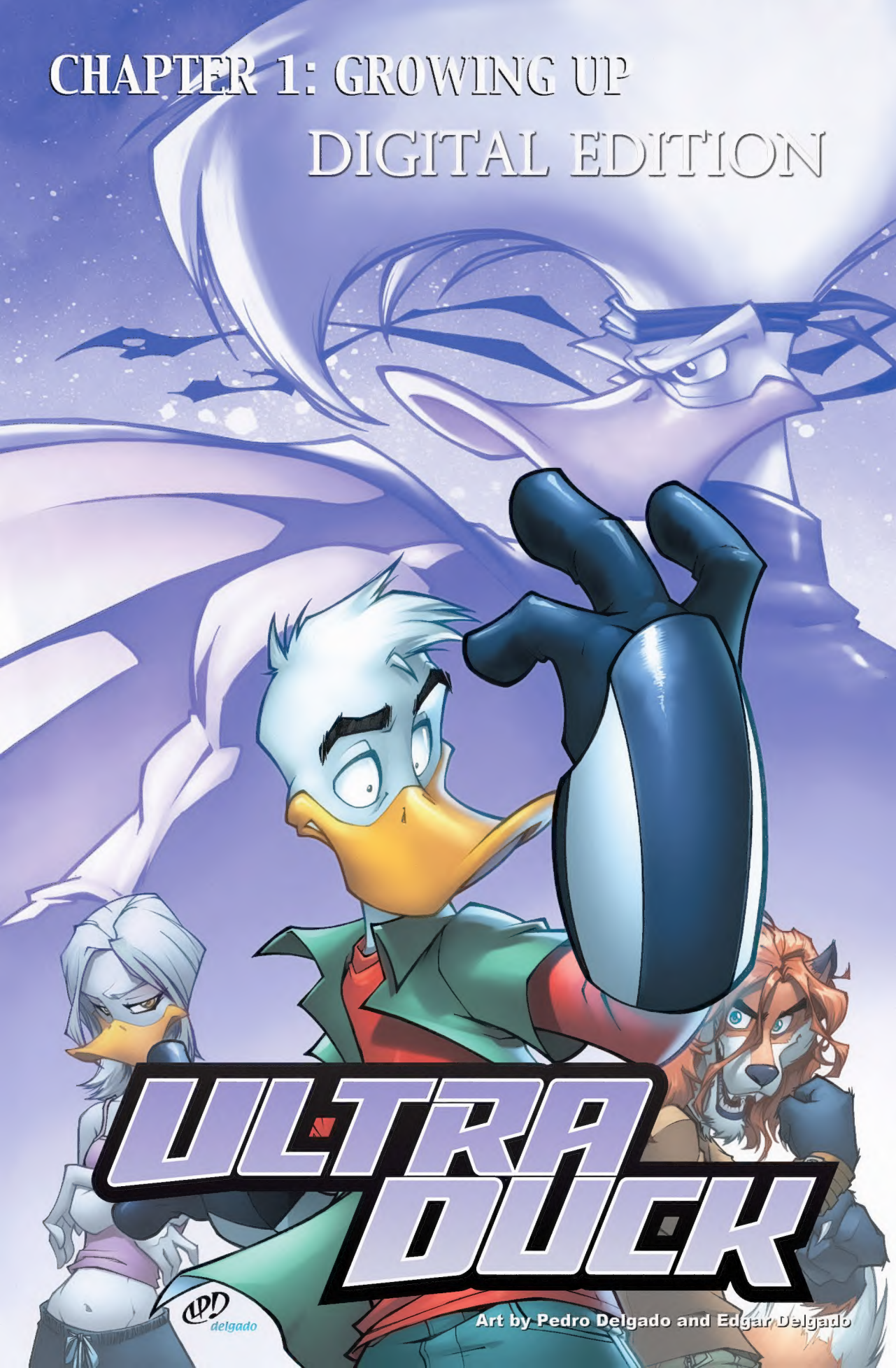
CHAPTER 1: GROWING UP

DIGITAL EDITION



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SO THIS IS THE CITY OF *FEATHERBAY*.
WHERE I LIVE.
IT USED TO BE MUCH WORSE.
NOW IT'S MOSTLY GUN FIGHTS ON THE STREETS AND SOME MUGGING.
LOTS OF CRIMINALS ARE NOW BEHIND BARS OR HAVE LEFT THE CITY, AND THERE'S A BIG POWER VACUUM THAT EVERYBODY IS FIGHTING FOR.
IT WAS FUN IN THE BEGINNING.

NOWADAYS COPS ARE EITHER LAZY OR CORRUPT, CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE.
ALL UNITS NEAR CENTRAL AVENUE REPORTS OF DRIVE BY SHOOTINGS, SUSPECTS VEHICLES ARE...
CLICK
I'M SPOILING THEM.
ANYWAY, SHOWTIME.
THESE GUYS SEEM DANGEROUS
SO I GUESS I'LL JUST KNOCK THEM DOWN.
AS FOR THE CHASED DOGS...
WHAT THE...?

...I GO EASY

SIX MONTHS EARLIER...
WHAT?
COME ON, YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR, LIKE, FOREVER, AND NOW SHE HAS A PROBLEM WITH THE WAY YOU ARE?
IT'S STUPID.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, IT'S JUST...
SHE IS RIGHT, YOU KNOW? WE'RE NOT KIDS ANYMORE AND SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF THIS IS GOING SOMEWHERE,
I'M 24 YEARS OLD ALREADY.
CHINESE BUFFET
CYONUS
LOUNGE & BAR
JOHNNY'S SHRIMP
WHATEVER, WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT MEAN? "GOING SOMEWHERE"?
IF I WERE YOU I'D TELL HER: "YES, I'M GOING SOMEWHERE, FUN TOWN NOW THAT I'M FREE"
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK LOUIE, IT'S NOT PERMANENT.
BUT I SEE WHAT LISA MEANS...
I DON'T HAVE A REAL JOB, WE SEE EACH OTHER ONLY ON WEEKENDS AND ALL WE DO IS EAT AND DRINK, AND THAT IS WHEN I'M NOT DRINKING WITH YOU,
I HAVE TO START MAKING PLANS.
LOOK CARLOS, I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH OUR LIFE, WOMEN LOVE TO MAKE US FEEL TERRIBLE,
SHE IS JUST TRYING TO SCARE YOU INTO BECOMING A BORING ADULT.
LAST GIRL I HAD WANTED ME TO GET A HAIRCUT, CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
I DON'T KNOW...

"THE THREE OF US HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE HIGH-SCHOOL".
"SHE ALWAYS SAID THAT I HAD A BIG LIFE AHEAD AND SHE FELT EXCITED BECAUSE SHE WAS GOING TO BE A PART OF IT."
"THAT I WAS GOING TO BE SOMEBODY".
"BUT NOW, ALL SHE SEES IS A KID WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GROW UP".
"DUDE, I'M NOT GONNA SOLVE THIS BY SITTING HERE IN A BAR".

BY THE WAY, YOU DO NEED A HAIRCUT.
SHUT UP.
CAN WE HAVE TWO MORE? THANKS!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GIVE HER A CALL...
DUDE. YOU'RE SO GAY.
CHINESE BUFFET
CYGNUS
LOUNGE & BAR
CAN WE PLEASE DROP IT AND HAVE SOME FUN NOW?
PUFF, NGH.
OPEN
HEY, WATCH IT!
SORRY, GOT TO GET AWAY, THEY'RE COMING...
NO!

AFTER THIS ROUND, LET'S JUST GO HOME.
AAGH!
THEY'RE OUT.
CARLOS! YOU OK?
THIS THING IS MELTING ON MY BACK!!!
NO, PLEASE...
IT BURNS!
GET IT OFF OF ME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT GUY?
SOMEBODY CALL SOMEBODY!
DUDE, I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE.
HELP!
BLAM
AARRGH!
GOTCHA.
EVERYBODY LISTEN UP!
PARTY'S OVER! GET OUT OF THIS PLACE NOW AND DON'T MAKE A SOUND OR WE WILL...
ARRRGGH!

!
AAAAAAAAAAAGGHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MEEEEEEE
ZZZZZPH

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
SEARCH THE PLACE, IT MUST BE A TRICK.
CARLOS!
THEY SHOT HIM!
SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION!
WHERE ARE YOU, DUCK? TALK TO ME!
OH GREAT.
HWEEEEO
OWEEEO
OWEEEE
WE CAN'T BE SEEN HERE.
SCREEECH
IT'S THE POLICE!
THE MISTRESS WILL NOT BE PLEASED.

I DON'T SEE THE DEVICES WITH YOU.
SORRY SIR, THIS GUY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS AN EXTRA WORKER HIDDEN IN THE LAB,
SOME GEEK WORKING EXTRA HOURS.
HE MANAGED TO STEAL THE DEVICES AND RAN AWAY.
AND WHERE IS *HE*?
WE CHASED HIM HERE BUT...
HE... DISAPPEARED... SIR,
THERE WAS ALSO A DUCK.
A DUCK?
THEY...
THEY USED THE DEVICES SOMEHOW, AND VANISHED...
THEN I GUESS YOU BETTER FIND THEM *MR. G*, OR MISTRESS *HYLEENA* WILL BE VERY DISSAPOINTED.

"YES SIR, WE WILL".
OH CRAP, MY HEAD.
WHERE? WHAT HAPP...?
MY ARM! I GOT SHOT, IT'S FINE NOW,
BUT HOW?
ER... HI, I DONT KNOW?
WHO ARE YOU?
GREETINGS WARRIORS, WELCOME TO THE NOWHERE REALM.
OH... MY...

...GOD.
I AM THE SENTIENT ENTITY DESIGNED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH YOUR WARRIOR PATH.
MY WHOLE EXISTENCE IS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW ROLE IN THE FEDERATION AND TEACH YOU HOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL WITH THE HELP OF THE SACRED GAUNTLETS IN YOUR POSSESSION.
I SENSE UNREST, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

AMAZING.
OH MY FREAKING... WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS THIS? HOW DID I? WHO THE HELL?
PLEASE WARRIOR, CLEAR YOUR MIND AND REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING.
YOU! THING! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I DONT WANT TO BE HERE! I WANT TO GO...
I CANNOT ANSWER CRYPTED QUESTIONS.
SO BE IT.
I AM HERE TO ASSIST AND GUIDE, I AM NOT HERE TO JUDGE.
WARRIOR, ARE YOU READY...
...FOR POWER?
POWER?
ABSOLUTELY.

WELL, HASN'T HE CALLED YOU?
I TOLD YOU LISA, HE VANISHED FROM THE BAR, I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE WITH YOU...
YEAH HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE "BREAK" THING BUT STILL...
HE LOOKED PRETTY BUMED.
ZOMY
PIZZA
LOOK IT WAS A WEIRD NIGHT, I JUST WANTED TO CHECK IF...
...HOME.
...YOU KNEW ANY...
NEVERMIND, HE JUST GOT HERE, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
WHERE WERE YOU?
EVERYBODY JUST WENT RUNNING I GOT SCARED, I EVEN CALLED LISA MAN...
HOW MUCH DID WE DRINK?
I DONT REMEMBER, I DONT EVEN REMEMBER HOW I GOT HOME...
WAIT, YOU CALLED LISA?!
SHE'S GONNA THINK I ASKED YOU TO...
BMGH
FEATHERED BASTARD CANT HOLD HIS LIQUOR.

ONE WEEK LATER .
YEAH I'VE BEEN FEELING STRANGE ALL WEEK.
I HAD TO ASK FOR A FEW MORE DAYS TO FINISH THAT JOB, DEADLINE WAS YESTERDAY.
I KNOW RIGHT? THE NEWS NEVER REPORTED ANYTHING, I MEAN, THERE WAS EVEN A GUN SHOT.
THEN I GUESS I FAINTED AND HAD THAT DREAM I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
WEIRD, YEAH.
SO ARE YOU COMING? I JUST GOT HERE.
...
MAN, I WAS KIDDING ABOUT THE HAIR THING, SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE ABOUT MY OPINION?
ALL RIGHT I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
LISA? I DOUBT IT.
I MEAN, WOULD YOU WANT TO RISK BUMPING INTO THE GUY YOU JUST DUMPED...

BY GOING TO THE... SAME... STUPID PLACES...
LISTEN, WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT IF I JUST GO AND FIND...
CARLOS?
NEVERMIND, SEE YOU HERE.
CLICK
HI LISA, SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO BE HERE.
CAFÉ ESPRESSO
WELL, I DID SHOW YOU THIS PLACE THE FIRST TIME, REMEMBER?
YEAH YEAH I REMEMBER, ANYWAY, I'M LEAVING...
SURE, NICE TO SEE YOU CARLOS, WE'LL...
...TALK.

...
WHEN?
I DON'T KNOW, LOOK, I WAN'T THIS TO BE A TIME FOR BOTH OF US, NOT JUST FOR ME.
I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
ABOUT US AND ABOUT A FUTURE TOGETHER.
ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT.
I FEEL LIKE A MORON YOU KNOW? WAITING FOR YOU.
HOW CAN I THINK ABOUT A FUTURE TOGETHER IF THERE IS NO "TOGETHER" ?
SEE? THIS IS EXACTLY THE PROBLEM CARLOS, YOU DON'T GET IT.
OH I GET IT.
I GET THAT SUDDENLY IM NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR...
OOPS.
KLANG
ER... SORRY.
I... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

STUPID, STUPID, STUPID.
CARLOS...
CAFE
PLEASE JUST LEAVE...
MAY I HELP YOU?

MONEY, REGISTER, FAST.
Coffee
STUPID DUCK...
CANT YOU JUST ACT LIKE A GROWN UP FOR ONE SEC...?
AAIEEE!!!
SHUT UP!
HUH?
PLEASE, DON'T HURT ANYBODY.
JUST DO AS WE SAY AND NOBODY GETS SHOT OK.?
AND WE DON'T WANT NO HEROES, START TAKING THOSE WALLETS OUT.
THE REGISTER NOW!
GREAT...

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE, THERE MUST BE A WINDOW SOMEWHERE...
BUT *LISA*, I CAN'T LEAVE HER, AND *LOUIE* WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
THOSE GUYS HAVE GUNS, IF I CALL THE POLICE THINGS MIGHT GET WORSE.
ACT LIKE A GROWN UP... YEAH RIGHT.
?
WHAT THE?!
WHAT IS THIS?!

I'M...
BIGGER?

WHO'S THERE? NO FUNNY TRICKS!
THIS IS NOT HAPPENING, THIS IS NOT HAPPENING.
KRUNCH
OK, IF THIS IS A DREAM, LET'S GO WITH IT.
CAPE, BOOTS, MUSCLES, ROBBERS.
DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
I DONT NEED IT SPELLED OUT FOR ME.
ACT LIKE A GROWN UP.

WC
COME OUT OR WE'LL SHOOT THE DOOR AND KILL YOU!
SURRENDER...
CARLOS?

PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK
MH?
FORCE FIELD?
UUGH, NNGH.
I TOLD YOU TO SURRENDER.
ARE YOU OKAY... ER... MISS?
CARLOS? IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU...
WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU CAUSE THE EXPLOSION?
YOU PEOPLE ARE A JOKE.
IS THIS THE FIRE POWER YOU DISPLAY AGAINST A THREAT LIKE ME?
OH MY GOD,
LOOK!

I'LL SHOW YOU FIREPOWER,
A NEW ORDER IS COMING TO THIS WORLD.
THIS PLANET IS NOW MINE!!
ROLLOUT TOUR
the Blankets

ULTRA
DUCK

Carlos, a regular duck living in the great city of Featherbay, just got dumped by his girlfriend, his life as a freelance do-it-all is going nowhere, and he must make some grown up decisions: to get a real job, get his girl back, and stop drinking.

That is, until he gets super powers and becomes the only duck in the world who can stop a powerful creature who's destroying the city on a vengeful rampage, and an evil weapons manufacturing corporation who want his abilities.

""Make no mistake about it, what Edgar, Omar and the rest of the ULTRADUCK posse have done here is to perfectly synergize the themes and elements of the modern superhero comic book with an equally modern take on what used to be called funny animals, and created something new, different and one hell of a lot of fun."

- Howard Chaykin. (American Flagg!, Blade)

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